

MRS. ROMAIN B. THOMAS
Redacted
WASHINGTON, D.C. Redacted

April 3, 2012

The Honorable John D. Bates
United States District Court
333 Constitution Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Judge Bates:

I am an eighty-two year old widow and the mother, grandmother and matriarch of the Thomas family. I humbly submit to you my plea for mercy in sentencing of my son, Harry L. Thomas, Jr. on May 3, 2012.

In the past few months I have agonized and prayed for Harry and his family regarding the next steps in their lives. The lives of his wife, children and family members, including me have been filled with shock and disbelief, and overwhelmed by events that have taken place. The pain has been deep and severe. This has caused a serious blow to our family pride, courage and values.

I continually ask myself the most stinging question. How did my son, who was reared in a Christian family from humble beginnings, become involved and entangled in such an ill-fated situation?

As a family, our passion for working in the neighborhood, helping others and serving community needs were important aspects of our lives together. Harry Jr.'s service started as the neighborhood paperboy, a boy scout, and involvement in youth sports. As he entered adulthood, he became a leader in many civic organizations. He has served in youth leadership roles as well as an Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner (ANC) for several years before joining the Council of the District of Columbia. Many of these positions were voluntary.

Just to highlight his dedication and commitment I will mention just a few of the events and activities in which he was involved with young people and senior citizens. During the years he would sponsor community-wide events to focus on critical issues such as health issues, drugs and crime, education, competitive sports, cultural arts and crafts and many other interesting and enjoyable activities.

These events involved city-wide organizations as well as public and private agencies. These events reached out to a cross section of people and families in Ward 5 and provide free wholesome, productive and informational activities that benefit many and made a difference in quality living life style.

Amazingly, Harry was always able to bring people together and create an atmosphere of harmony, caring and belonging. This had a far reaching impact on the community. Hopefully, his many, many contributions will not fade and good will overcome the ugly forces that may surround him.

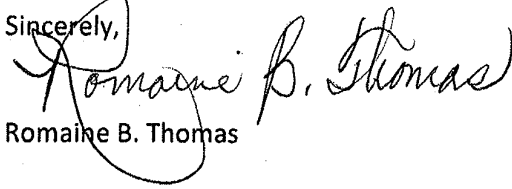
Most of all, I am truly concerned about the cruel marks from dehumanizing encounters that may continue in the lives of Harry's children. The psychological, physical and social damages will be most detrimental during their young lives.

I must emphasize again that this entire episode will become very terrifying to his children, especially the younger girls. At this point they are all doing quite well and above average in school. We shall always try to do everything possible and within our power to keep them comfortable, safe and secure. Again, we humbly appeal to you, Judge Bates and thank you for your understanding with balanced equity and fairness in the broad arena of life.

I don't believe that harsh punishment and retribution, as many of Harry's distractors are wishing, would allow my son to continue his re-payment of funds and service to our community.

I am humbly grateful for your wisdom and integrity in the consideration of leniency for my son, Harry Thomas, Jr.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Romaine B. Thomas". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Romaine B. Thomas